

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
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DRAFTED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE
-----140311Z 018953 /67
O 140257Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056056

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE

FOR AMBASSADOR CUTLER FROM AMB. SCHAUFEELE

1. YOU SHOULD SEE MOBUTU SOONEST, OBTAIN HIS GENERAL
EVALUATION OF SITUATION, ELICIT ANSWERS TO CERTAIN
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND SUGGEST SOME STEPS HE MIGHT
WISH TO CONSIDER.

A) IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL SITUATION, DOES MOBUTU APPEAR
TO LAY CREDENCE IN REPORTS THAT THIS REPRESENTS MAJOR
COORDINATED MOVE TO TOPPLE HIS REGIME? IF SO, WHAT
STEPS IS HE PLANNING TO DEFEND HIMSELF?

B) WHAT WAS MESSAGE WHICH MOBUTU DELIVERED TO
NIGERIANS? DID HE GET A HELPFUL RESPONSE?

C) HAS HE ADDRESSED PERSONAL MESSAGES TO ANY OTHER
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HEADS OF STATE? WHAT RESPONSES?

D) IT SEEMS TO US THAT ONLY WAY TO CUT SHORT THIS
INVASION AND AVERT AN ESCALATION IS TO BRING AFRICAN
PRESSURE TO BEAR IN SUPPORT OF OAU INVESTIGATION AND
MEDIATION. WE SUGGEST THAT STATES LIKE NIGERIA AND
TANZANIA COULD BE VERY USEFUL IN PRESSURING NETO TO

TALK NOT FIGHT. PERHAPS KAUNDA COULD BE PERSUADED TO TALK TO NYRERE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF ESCALATING CONFLICT FOR AFRICA AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE.

E) IN THIS CONTEXT OF BUILDING PRESSURE FOR MEDIATION WE SUGGEST MOBUTU SHOULD CONTACT AS MANY OF HIS FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE; E.G. KENYATTA, EYADEMA, BONGO.

F) THERE MAY BE REASONS WHY MOBUTU HAS NOT RAISED THE SPECTRE OF KATANGAN SEPARATISM, BUT IT OCCURS TO US THAT HIS CASE WOULD BE MUCH STRONGER IF THIS DANGER COULD BE DOCUMENTED. THERE IS TENDENCY FOR MANY STATES NOW TO TREAT INVASION AS SIMPLE RETALIATION FOR ZAIRIAN SUPPORT OF ANGOLAN INSURGENTS.

G) YOU WILL, OF COURSE, WISH TO ASSURE MOBUTU THAT WE REMAIN VERY CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF THE INVASION, WILL SHORTLY BE RESPONDING TO HIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, AND WISH TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH.

2. FYI: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR FRENCH AND BELGIAN BUT NOT RPT NOT YET ZAIRIAN COLLEAGUES YOU MAY INDICATE THAT WE INTEND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ZAIRIAN REQUEST, WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL, EXPRESSING HOPE THEY ARE ALSO PLANNING TO RESPOND. FOR DETAILS SEE SEPTELS TO PARIS AND BRUSSELS.

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